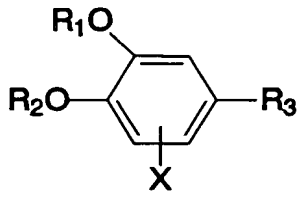
Fig. 1 shows the 3-LMD serum concentrations for the new compound and for a control compound which does not contain a COMT inhibitor.

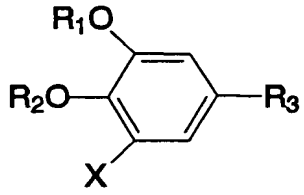
Fig. 2 shows the levodopa serum concentrations after the same treatments.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 29, line 2, kindly delete the formula I

"  I "

and kindly insert formula

--  I --

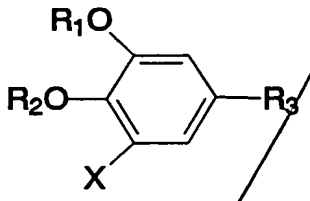
Kindly amend claims 31 and 32 as follows:

31. (Amended) [The compound according to claim 30, wherein the compound is] N,N-diethyl-2-cyano-3-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)acrylamide.

32. (Amended) [The compound according to claim 30, wherein the] A compound [is] selected from the group consisting of 2-cyano-3-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl-2-cyano-3-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)-acrylamide and N-isopropyl-2-cyano-3-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)-acrylamide.

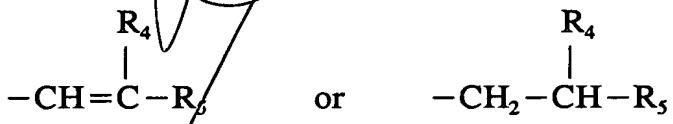
Kindly add the following new claims:

--33. A pharmaceutical composition of matter comprising an effective amount of a compound according to formula I to inhibit catechol-O-methyltransferase



I

wherein R_1 and R_2 independently represent hydrogen, carbamoyl which is substituted by an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkylcarbonyl of 2 to 5 carbon atoms or phenyl carbonyl, X represents halogen nitro or cyano and R_3 represents



wherein R_4 represents cyano or alkylcarbonyl of 2 to 5 carbon atoms and R_5 represents carbamoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or which is substituted with hydroxyalkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or pharmaceutically acceptable esters and salts thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

--34. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein R_4 is cyano and R_5 is carbamoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms.